

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join in me in proudly saluting the Southampton Hospital Quarter Backers as the group enters its 21st year of proud service to the hospital and the East End of Long Island.

EXCHANGE CLUB OF LONG
BRANCH HONORS POLICEMEN OF
THE YEAR

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this evening, Wednesday, March 4, 1998, the Exchange Club of Long Branch, NJ, will honor two officers as Policemen of the Year as part of its annual crime prevention week.

Cpl. Howard Townsend and rookie officer Michael Ahart are being honored for preventing a possible case of arson. On May 7, 1997, the police received a call to respond to a person possibly attempting to burn down a house. Cpl. Townsend and Officer Ahart responded to the scene and confronted an individual at the back door of the residence. The subject lit a cigarette lighter and instructed the officers not to come any closer or he would set fire to the house. The two officers responded to the emergency like the well-trained professionals that they are. Cpl. Townsend called for fire engines, paramedics, ambulances and a negotiator. He prudently advised the emergency vehicles not to use their lights or sirens to avoid further alarming the individual in the house. Officer Ahart remained with the subject, talking until he was able to get close enough to take a lighter and a gasoline-soaked rag away from him. It was subsequently discovered that the downstairs apartment—where an 85-year-old man and his disabled 83-year-old wife lived—had been completely soaked with gasoline.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of these two police officers are a source of pride to the Long Branch community. While I'm sure that Cpl. Howard and Officer Ahart would object to being described as heroes, and would insist that they were just doing their jobs, their decisive action under severe pressure reminds all of us of the great contributions that police officers around our country make to our security, often at serious personal risk.

The Long Branch Exchange Club is part of a national organization of civic clubs devoted to allegiance to the flag and programs to benefit and educate children. They also stage festival events and other community programs throughout the year.

TRIBUTE TO ANNIE SMITH OF
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a citizen of this country who represents the best of what America has been, is and can become.

Mrs. Annie Smith was born in Mississippi in 1906, moved to Arkansas with her family and ultimately settled in Chicago, Illinois.

God blessed her with the gift of creativity. She learned cosmetology and millinery, established her own shop and was an outstanding business woman for many years. She was a graduate of Madam C.J. Walker's Beauty College and was an Eastern Star.

Mrs. Smith was a member of the St. Luke's Baptist Church for many years before joining the Carey Tercentenary A.M.E. Church, until her death, under the leadership of Rev. K.K. Owens. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Smith and son Charles Gordon.

Best wishes are extended to her son, Mr. Eugene Ireland, and grandchildren, Charlotte Willis, Vernetia Johnson, Jeffrey Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Ann Hill, Rosalynn Hill and her other grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and other family members and friends.

TRIBUTE TO DENT MIDDLE
SCHOOL

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dent Middle School for being honored with the Palmetto's Finest award. This award is given annually to four schools in my home State of South Carolina for excellence in an educational facility. It is sponsored by the Carolina First bank and the S.C. Association of School Administrators.

As a former high school history teacher, I congratulate them with heartfelt pride for the work that is being done at Dent Middle School. Under the leadership of principal Cheryl Washington, a personal friend, Dent was chosen based on factors including how they teach, what classes they offer and how well the school interacts with parents and the local community. Site visits are also made by the judges, who comprise a team of educators representing schools that have won the award previously. Schools may win this prestigious award only once.

Dent Middle School, located in the Midlands area of the Sixth Congress District, is a unique school that represents the diverse population of my district very well. Dent has not only an economically, but also racially, diverse student body of 1,200. Students come from affluent suburban areas, lower-income apartment communities and nearby Fort Jackson. Students also come from across Richland District 2 for a magnet program housed at Dent. The magnet program, The Learning Cooperative, offers a longer school day, smaller teacher to student ratios, and challenging subjects for approximately 240 students from across the school district.

Aside from the magnet program, Dent offers an after-school tutoring program, study sessions and help with homework for students who need extra assistance. They also offer a program called ALERTS who offer special challenges for academically talented students.

Aside from being chosen as one of the Palmetto's Finest, Dent Middle School is a finalist for the Blue Ribbon School award given by the U.S. Department of Education. The other schools in South Carolina chosen as Palmetto's Finest are Riverside High in Greenville County, Reidville Elementary in Spartanburg

County and Shell Point Elementary in Beaufort County. All four of the Palmetto's Finest schools will be honored by Governor David Beasley and state Superintendent of Education Barbara Nielsen at a March 10 gala in Columbia.

Principal Washington says the awards bestowed on Dent aren't won easily and it takes the "commitment of everyone here, the collaboration of everyone working together." It is obvious that Dent Middle School is indeed very committed to meeting the needs of an extremely diverse student body and has proficiently collaborated their efforts so that each student gets the educational attention they deserve. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me in paying tribute to Dent Middle School, with congratulations to Ms. Cheryl Washington; two of the Palmetto State's Finest.

HONORING THE HOUSTON FOOD
BANK ON ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Houston Food Bank on 15 years of service to the community. The Food Bank will celebrate its anniversary with a gala birthday luncheon on March 12, 1998. In keeping with its tradition of seeking ever new ways to serve, funds raised at the luncheon will be used to expand delivery of fresh fruit and vegetables and provide nutrition education to thousands more needy families.

There is much to celebrate. Since it opened its doors in March 1982, the Houston Food Bank has steadily grown into the nation's fourth-largest food bank, serving 36 counties in southeast Texas and feeding 200,000 people each month.

When it began, the Houston Food Bank consisted of volunteers picking up food in a psychedelic Volkswagen bus and icing it down in picnic baskets. Today, the Food Bank operates from a 73,000-square-foot warehouse featuring 160,000 cubic feet of freezer and refrigerated space. It operates three bobtail trucks, two tractors, and eight trailers for pick-up of donated food provided through a partnership with 300 food companies.

Since its inception, the Food Bank has provided 160 million pounds of food to people in need. Last year alone, the Food Bank provided 20 million pounds of food and other essentials to 400 member charities, including food pantry programs, shelters for the homeless, nutrition programs for the elderly, and group foster homes.

These accomplishments are reason enough to celebrate, but the Houston Food Bank recently received more good news when it was honored with the Congressional Hunger Center's 1997 "Victory Against Hunger Award." The Center praised the Food Bank as "a national model for innovation and efficiency in feeding the hungry," specifically citing programs that "engage all facets of the community in the fight against hunger."

This is but one of many well-deserved honors the Houston Food Bank has received. In 1984, the Houston Food Bank became a certified member of Second Harvest, a network association of 185 food banks across the